

JULY  
2018

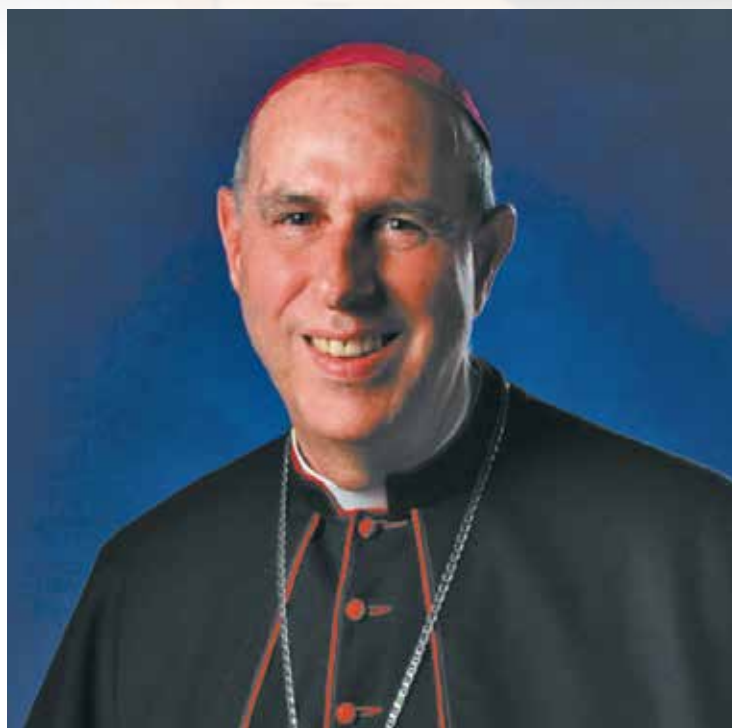
# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## REACHING GOALS TOGETHER THROUGH OUR ST. ANTHONY PASTORAL PLAN FOR 2018-2023

A few years ago, Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu, called on all parishes in the diocese to develop a pastoral plan. His motivation was twofold — he wanted each parish to have a firmer idea of where they were and what they hoped to accomplish in the coming years, and he wanted the diocese to develop a similar plan based upon what was learned from the parishes.

At that time Bishop Silva said, “A mission-driven parish is one in which the Gospel has come alive in the lives of the people. Parishioners have heard Jesus’ call to become His followers and are trying to live as faithful disciples. The role of the parish is to help its members grow closer to Jesus. This self-study is intended to help the parish assess its strengths and challenges in light of this role.”

“Furthermore, the areas for study are: Community and Evangelization, Worship, Formation in the Word of God, Social Ministry, and Parish Leadership,” Bishop Silva says. “This process will help the parish continue to renew itself. It will also help me get to know your parish in a deeper way as I meet with the self-study team and with the parish to hear what you have learned about yourselves and how you will challenge yourselves to grow for the future. It is also an opportunity for the parish to link its



*Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu*

activities with the Diocesan Road Map priorities. The pastor and the parish pastoral council have the primary responsibility for the self-study. A committee of the council should be formed to oversee the process.”

In response to Bishop Silva’s mandate, a  
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## REACHING GOALS TOGETHER *continued from front cover*

committee was established here at St. Anthony. Nani Gaperio is a member of the Pastoral Council and was a member of the study committee established.

“We met for four months and during that time, we met with parish leadership, especially heads of ministries, as well as having listening sessions with other parish members,” Nani says. “We were able to produce a Parish Pastoral Plan for the next five years, 2018-2023.

“That plan has been shared with ministry leaders, but it has not yet been distributed to all members of the parish, but will be some time in the near future,” she continues. “In the meantime, we would like to highlight what we found and key parts of the plan.”

Once all the necessary information and input was received, Nani and Kathy Shimada — who is also a member of the Parish Council, and also serves as its Secretary — put the information together in a way that people could understand it. In particular, Nani credits Kathy with much of the organizational work.

The plan calls for three priority areas and goals:

1. To strengthen marriage and family relationships within the Sacrament of Matrimony
2. Cherish and value the youth and young adults as vibrant Catholic members in their continued participation and service in the Church
3. To deepen our faith as stewards and evangelizers in our liturgies, studies and praise and worship

The goals (priorities) provide clarity about where we will focus and what we will address as we move forward during the next five years. We will establish critical success factors as well, to bring clarity about what we should do to move in these directions.

These goals for the parish are framed within the context of stewardship. It is our call to convert, renew and encourage parishioners in their commitment to live stewardship as a way of life as a disciple of Christ. As our parish is administered by The Marianists, we should seek to harmonize

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*— Most Reverend Larry Silva,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu*

and encourage members to be a faith filled community as Blessed Father Chaminade envisioned.

“We presented this plan to the bishop in early April, and he was enthusiastic and supportive of it,” Nani says. “He was very happy with the plan, in part because he is really focusing on youth ministry and getting our young people more engaged and involved in the Church.”

Bishop Silva has responded to what he has found in parishes throughout the diocese.

“I am amazed at how much parishioners throughout the diocese are engaged in the implementation of the parish road map, not only at the diocesan level, but in their own parishes and vicariates,” he says. “I believe the key to this engagement is their initial participation in the formulation of the Pastoral Plan priorities that make up the road map.”

*If you would like more information about the Pastoral Plan, please contact the parish office at 808-244-4148.*

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

### *What Is the Real Purpose of Our Lives?*

Dear Parishioners,

Do you ever think about your purpose in life? Even as a priest, I certainly do. There are days and times of frustration when I think, “What am I really supposed to do? What does God want me to do? Why am I here?” For eons, philosophers have considered these very questions and written about them.

But the truth is that we, as Catholics, already know the answers.

When we consider the many facets of life in our parish community, there are numerous activities and endeavors that go beyond attending Mass. From fundraising efforts, to social outreach/service, childcare and more, there are many ways in which we serve our community.

Yet, as we undertake these important pursuits — both within and outside of the parish — we must always remember that our ultimate goal is salvation. After all, the only reason we exist, the only reason our Church exists, is the same as the reason Jesus joined us and became a part of us here on earth — He came to save humanity.

We use the term the “body of Christ” to describe the Church with Christ as the head. We are all parts of that body, and the parts of the body must move in the same direction as the body itself — it simply won’t function if the parts are moving in different directions.



We are all in this together.

When our lives are complete, we do not base our success or failure on how much money we have, or whether or not we are famous. Nor does our success or failure depend upon the difference between health and sickness, or pleasure and pain, or even being nice or nasty. Rather, it is the difference between being saved and not being saved.

I often think of my family members who have already crossed the bridge of salvation, and as a priest, I deal with that issue with others on a very regular basis. Sometimes, I wonder if they ever fully realized that salvation was the answer to so many of our questions in life.

I am surrounded by memories of those who have gone before, as are almost all of you. We are apt to use the term “the communion of saints” in many ways in our Church. Someday, we will know more about the “communion of saints” and how it all works. In the meantime, we pray for everyone who has gone before us, hoping they have made it home.

Pray for me as I pray for you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Roland Bunda*

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS UNITING MEMBERS OF OUR

It's easy to take things for granted when you have your health. From accomplishing what you want during the day to going to wherever you'd like, most of us don't give a second thought to the ease and freedom that exists in our daily choices. But when someone is homebound due to age or illness, whether in their own home or a nursing home, they lose much of their independence. And for those who are unable to travel to Mass, they often lose their ability to be united with Christ in the Eucharist, as well.

At St. Anthony, however, a dedicated group of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) work hard to ensure that in the midst of suffering and loneliness, our homebound parishioners know that they are not

forgotten, either by the Lord or their Church family.

Emily Santos, and her husband, Fred, have been part of this ministry, visiting and bringing Holy Communion to those who live at Hale Makua, a local skilled nursing facility, for over a decade.

For many of the people they see, Emily and Fred's visit is the highlight of their week.

"We have several who were daily communicants and now they can't get out — they are so grateful," Emily says. "They say, 'Thank you so much, you have blessed me by bringing Communion!' There are so many we have seen, we're witness to their faith."

On occasion, they're also able to help someone who may have been away from the faith



*Emily and Fred Santos serve by bringing Communion to those who live at Hale Makua.*

## WITNESSES OF HOLY COMMUNION BRINGING COMMUNITY WITH CHRIST

become reconnected.

“I asked one gentleman if he wanted to receive Communion, and he said, ‘Yes, but I’ve been away from the Church a long time,’” Emily says. “And he said, ‘I would love to go to Confession.’ I told him we would check with Father and see if he could come and asked, ‘Is it ok if we pray with you?’ We sat there and we prayed with him, and tears were running down his face. I knew he was so sincere in wanting to receive Jesus.

“We were so happy for him and he was so happy, and he said, ‘I’ve never felt this closeness to God,’” Emily adds, recalling that their ministry brought the man Communion a week later, after he’d been able to receive Reconciliation. “And when we came back, he had died. It was just so touching because we knew he had received Jesus first.”

Emily has also found that her own faith and appreciation of the sacrament has grown since serving in this ministry, and says she has been blessed as much as those she has served.

“My faith has grown 10 times more than when I started,” she says. “We’re reading more religious books, we’re praying more — and in our prayers, we have a long chain of people we’re praying for.”

“I really feel closer to God when I can do this for my brothers and sisters in Christ,” Fred says. “When you go visit them, they give you more than

you give them. You can see the joy that Jesus promised. It’s so wonderful to share with them.”

In some cases, the residents don’t have many visitors and having someone who comes to visit, pray and bring the Eucharist to them is a great reminder of God’s care.

“There are some patients who I never see family stop by to visit,” Emily says. “We love them and they feel that. We try to remind them that Jesus loves them no matter what — He’s thinking about you and He cares about how you’re feeling, and we’re all praying for you. We have really made a lot of close relationships with the patients who are in there.”

Emily encourages other parishioners to consider serving their brothers and sisters in Christ through this ministry.

“Come to Hale Makua and just visit and walk through and say ‘hi,’” she says. “Just walk and visit, say a little prayer and let them know that Jesus loves them. Let them know they’re not forgotten and before you know it, you’re going to want to come back again and again.

“It’s a sacrifice that we willingly make, because we know that we’ll see our friends and our family and our visit is important to them and they are important to us too,” she adds. “They lift our spirits up.”

*If you would like more information, or to become involved in bringing Holy Communion to those who are homebound, hospitalized or living at Hale Makua, or if you have a loved one who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive the Eucharist, please contact Nona Iwata at the parish office, 808-244-4148.*

## *Mass Reverence and Etiquette*

For many of us, when we are invited to a wedding, one of our first considerations is “what am I going to wear?” We wouldn’t think of showing up at a formal event in our workout clothes. How many of us search for just the right outfit to wear to our annual office party or on a date? Compare that to how much thought we put into what we wear to Mass on Sunday.

How we dress for an occasion indicates the importance that we place upon that particular celebration. At Mass, we encounter God through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Dressing appropriately for Mass is one way that we show respect both for God and for our faith family. And this respect is important at all Masses – no matter what time of day or night.

Think about what you are teaching your children when you all wear your “Sunday clothes”

to Mass. You are reminding them that Mass is a special celebration. After all, we are going to Jesus’ house.

Some people may quickly point out that Mass shouldn’t be a fashion show – a place to show off your finery – and they are right! We also know that some parishioners come to Mass on their way home from work, and they certainly should not feel embarrassed about arriving at Mass in their work clothes. And no one should ever stay away from Mass because of simplicity of clothing.

But one rule should apply in all instances – our attire at Mass should always be modest. Our clothing should never distract others from what we are gathered together to celebrate – the life, death and resurrection of our Lord.

The celebration of Mass is always a holy occasion and thus should be treated in the most holy manner – in body, mind and spirit.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### *Ready to Transition to Original Order of Sacraments*

This past spring, a small class of second and third-grade students became the last children at St. Anthony to receive First Holy Communion as a single sacrament. That same ceremony also saw the Confirmation of four adult parishioners and teenagers. This momentous occasion marked not only a rite of passage for several Catholics, but what Sr. Eva Messina, CSJ, Director of Religious Education, calls a paradigm shift in the parish's view of Religious Education.

Beginning this fall, St. Anthony School second-graders and children of the same age who are enrolled in Religious Education will start the process to receive three sacraments by the end of the school year — the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This process will align St. Anthony with the Original Order of Sacraments of Initiation as embraced in recent years by the Diocese of Honolulu.

“Our Confirmation is going to be June 9, 2019,” Sr. Eva says. “All of the second graders and above who are baptized will be eligible for Confirmation, with the caveat that they’re properly prepared. During the first half of the year, they’ll have their first confession



and in the second half of the year, they’ll be confirmed and have their First Holy Communion. The rest of the students are just preparing for Confirmation because they’ve made their First Holy Communion. They’ll make their Confirmation the same day.”

Implementing this process has required a sea of change within Religious Education, not only among students, but

parents as well to ensure the child’s faith formation continues after they’ve officially received the sacraments. Sr. Eva asks families to imagine that being confirmed is like being given a passport — it allows you to visit a country, but in order to become a citizen of that country, you have to learn their culture and participate in it.

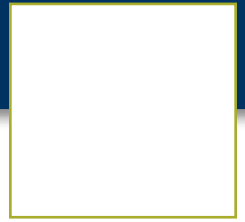
“Many parents think as soon as they’re confirmed, they’re

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# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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## *Religious Education Ready to Transition to Original Order of Sacraments* continued from page 7

finished with their religious education, but just because they're confirmed, doesn't mean they've graduated," she says. "We prepare them as much as a second-grader can comprehend but they need to continue learning. This is a life process, it's not getting only a certificate and that's it."

Parents are asked to attend sessions that will help further their understanding of the sacraments so that they can further assist their

children as the year of preparation goes on. Sr. Eva says these sessions focus on helping families learn how to live out the sacraments and gives them answers about why the sacraments are vital to our faith lives.

"In 90 minutes, I try to give them a whole semester of sacramental preparation and most of them are very appreciative," she says. "They say they didn't realize these things when they were younger."

*Registration for the new year in Religious Education began in June. Families are asked to call the parish office at 808-244-4148 for more information and to sign up their children.*

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

CHURCH CENTER :: **Saturday** 5:00 p.m. | **Sunday** 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

SAINT DAMIEN CHAPEL :: **Monday - Friday** 6:30 a.m. | **Saturday** 7:00 a.m.